

REMARKS

Claims 13-19 are pending in this application of which claims 13-17 are independent. Claim 13-17 have been amended. Claim 19 has been added. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Reconsideration in light of the following remarks and foregoing amendments is respectfully solicited.

Claims 14-18 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, it is acknowledged with appreciation that these claims have been indicated as allowable pending rewriting them in independent form. Claims 14-17 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of base claim 13. Claim 18 depends from claim 17, and therefore was not amended. These claims stand in allowed form, and indication is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakao et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,351,410). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Fig. 6 illustrates one of many exemplary embodiments of a magnetic memory cell array in which adjacent memory cells share a corresponding write word line, read word line, read data line, or write data line. Claim 13 has been amended to more specifically recite “a memory array having a plurality of magnetic memory cells arranged in every other memory cell row and every other memory cell column such that each memory cell of said plurality of memory cells is separated from another by an adjoining memory cell location in a row direction and an adjoining memory cell location in a column direction” Also, new claim 19, which depends from claim 13, recites “adjacent magnetic memory cells correspond to nearest adjacent memory cells.” Support can be found in, for example, the exemplary illustration of Fig. 6 in which adjacent memory cells in the row direction share the same bit line BL. That is, nearest adjacent memory cells are those that are

not separated from another by an adjoining memory cell location in a row direction and an adjoining memory cell location in a column direction. Other exemplary embodiments are illustrated throughout the application, and remarks herein shall not limit the claims to any embodiment.

In regard to claim 13, the Examiner appears to take a broad construction of the claim term “adjacent magnetic memory cells in the same row or in the same column.” (See Office Action, page 3, last paragraph). The Examiner posits the conventional matrix arrangement illustrated in Fig. 11 of Nakao reads on claim 13 (before amendment). Applicant has amended claim 13, as recited above, to distinguish from this conventional matrix arrangement.

Nakao fails to disclose or suggest “adjacent magnetic memory cells share a corresponding one of at least one of said plurality of write word lines, said plurality of read word lines, said plurality of read data lines and said plurality of write data lines,” for “a memory array having a plurality of magnetic memory cells arranged in every other memory cell row and every other memory cell column such that each memory cell of said plurality of memory cells is separated from another by an adjoining memory cell location in a row direction and an adjoining memory cell location in a column direction,” as amended claim 13 recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

All outstanding issues have been aptly addressed. Should the Examiner have any comments or questions about this response or the application in general, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this case.

No.: 10/615,379

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Tennant", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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